

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, RO
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGES

REF: STAE 197547

1. DESPITE REPEATED QUERIES, MINAG HAS NOT YET PROVIDED REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR NEBRASKA/IOWA STATE EXCHANGES. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE ON SAME BASIS AS REGULAR US-ROMANIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM, I.E., SENDING SIDE PAYS INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION, RECEIVING SIDE PROVIDES LOCAL MAINTENANCE COSTS. NEBRASKA'S PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DATED NOVEMBER 3, 1975 IMPLIES ROMANIANS WOULD PAY DOLLAR COSTS OF THEIR PERSONNEL IN U.S., WHICH CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

2. EMBASSY PREFERS NOT TO LIMIT EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO ONE US UNIVERSITY ONLY, BECAUSE IN EYES OF MINISTER MISCULESCU, WHO PERSONALLY INITIATED PROPOSAL, EACH SERVES A PARTICULAR FUNCTION- NEBRASKA FOR RESEARCH IN WHEAT, IOWA STATE FOR RESEARCH IN CORN. WE WOULD PREFER INSTEAD TO LIMIT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO ONE ROMANIAN AND ONE AMERICAN EACH TO AND FROM EACH UNIVERSITY, MAKING A TOTAL OF FOUR GRANTS. WE HAVE ALREADY UNOFFICIALLY PROPOSED SUCH A MODEST BEGINNING TO MINAG IN ORDER TO SEE HOW PROGRAM DEVELOPS AND TO AVOID INFLATED EXPECTATIONS ON ROMANIAN SIDE.

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3. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM LIMITED CORRESPONDENCE ON

HAND HERE WHETHER NEBRASKA AND IOWA STATE ARE UNWILLING TO PROVIDE ANY FUNDS AT ALL TO SUPPORT EXCHANGES OR WHETHER THEIR FUNDING RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ONLY. WOULD THEY FOR INSTANCE PROVIDE MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR ROMANIAN PROFESSORS? THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS PROJECT VITAL TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES HERE AND IS WILLING TO BUDGET REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TQ-76 OR FY-77 FUNDS TO GET IT GOING. VIEWED FROM THIS END, SIMPLEST SOLUTION WOULD BE CPI GRANTS LIKE ONE CU JUST NEGOTIATED WITH JOHNS HOPKINS FOR EXCHANGE WITH INSTITUTE OF CONSTRUCTION. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, IF POSSIBLE, WOULD AVOID BUREAUCRATIC HASSLE OF GETTING NOMINATIONS THROUGH CIES AND MINED AND CONFUSING INSTITUTIONAL WITH GOVERNMENT EXCHANGES. MINAG WOULD AGREE TO PAY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FOR ITS TWO PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDE STIPEND AND HOUSING FOR TWO AMERICANS. IF THE TWO U.S. UNIVERSITIES CAN BE PERSUADED TO PAY LIVING COSTS FOR TWO ROMANIAN GRANTEES, THAT WOULD LEAVE ONLY TWO TRAVEL GRANTS TO BE FUNDED FROM CU BUDGET. EVEN IF NEBRASKA AND IOWA STATE CANNOT SUPPORT LOCAL COSTS FOR ROMANIANS, TOTAL COST FOR USG WOULD AMOUNT TO RELATIVELY MODEST DLS 7,000, ASSUMING ROMANIANS RECEIVE 90 DAY RESEARCH GRANTS.

5. IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPRACTICAL FOR EMBASSY OR MINAG TO ATTEMPT NEGOTIATING PROJECT FROM HERE. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND SENDING RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL FROM MINAG OR ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY ON 30 DAY EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST GRANT UNDER ARTICLE I-3 TO NEBRASKA AND IOWA STATE TO LAY SOLID GROUNDWORK AND NEGOTIATE FINAL AGREEMENT. MINED, WHICH NORMALLY GUARDS ITS TEN EDSPEC GRANTS FIERCELY, HAS AGREED INFORMALLY TO GIVE ONE GRANT TO MINAG FOR THIS PURPOSE.

6. AS SOON AS DEPT COMMENTS ON EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS, WE WILL MAKE FORMAL PROPOSAL TO MINAG.
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